



*Christ's Lane, 1950s 69.34*

c.44.6: Cambridge CHRIST'S LANE Scrapbook

## **1900**

1906 02 22

Sir: Christ's Lane is a thoroughfare that is as much used as any in Cambridge, and is owned by a college. During the last two years it has been a veritable quagmire, I came through last evening and the mud was several inches thick through the lane. When is Cambridge to be governed so that there is the same law measured out for the University as there is for the worker and when is Christ's Lane to be paved in such a manner that that it shall be as pleasant to walk through as it is walking across Christ's Pieces? – B.L. 06 02 22

1906 02 22

In 1901 an agreement was made with Emmanuel College for the closing of Emmanuel Street and the opening of a new one nearer Christ's Lane. It had been needed when electric trams were being planned to remedy a dangerous corner with St Andrew's Street – but there would be a more dangerous corner to the proposed new street. Now some councillors called for the agreement to be cancelled. However the council had entered a binding contract and they were honour-bound to carry it out. 06 02 22a,b,c

1908 07 24

A great deal of excitement was caused by a fire at Christ's College. Bert Holder, a butcher, noticed smoke issuing from the scullery and engine room window in Christ's Lane where the ceiling, which is of matchboarding, was well alight. P.C. Fred Savidge and the head porter, Mr Chapman, fitted the college fire appliance to a hydrant and commenced to play on the flames, which were soon extinguished owing to the prompt action of the fire brigade and police force. CWN 08 07 24

## **1920**

1924 06 16

Motorcycle accident, Christ's Lane, p3

## **1930**

1933 07 05

Sir, If I were 'Traffic Dictator' for Cambridge motor cycles would not be allowed in Sussex Street or Christ's Lane, there would be no parking of cars for more than fifteen minutes or in Jesus Lane: why spend £2,000 widening it, then block the space gained by motor cars. Bus users would be made to queue up near Lloyds Bank: often it is virtually impossible to get through the crowds of waiting passengers. – 'Interested'. 33 07 05 p8

1939 03 04

Christ's Lane bar – 39 03 04

## **1940**

1942 01 17

Jim Wooders has minded parcels at Drummer Street, Christ's Lane for 23 years – photo – 42 01 17

## **1950**

1952 05 05

Cambridge city council would like to see Christ's Lane opened out as a thoroughfare to be used by the omnibuses and other traffic to alleviate congestion in the City centre and provide relief for Emmanuel Street. The present country bus station at Drummer Street would then become the main stopping place for the local buses which now pick up and set down passengers in Sidney Street constricting the traffic flow. They also propose a new road on the line of Post Office Terrace to Wheeler Street. With Corn Exchange Street widened this would provide for a good circulation of traffic in the city centre.

1954 09 18

It may interest readers to know that the short thoroughfare from St Andrews' Street to Drummer Street, now known as Christ's Lane, has changed its name more than any other in Cambridge. Old maps show it as Hangman's Lane, St Nicholas' Lane, Rogis Lane, Rogues' Lane, Hinton Lane and George Street. Downing Street has been Dowdivers Lane, Langrith Lane, Hoghill Lane, Bird Bolt Lane and Plot and Nuts Lane.

1956 11 27

A proposal to close Christ's Lane and provide an alternative footway between Drummer Street and St Andrew's Street was approved in 1954. But now Christ's College have proposed an alternative consisting of an arcade leading into a central courtyard then through another arcade to Drummer Street. The council would be responsible for maintaining, cleaning and lighting it. 56 11 27a

1957 08 23

Plans have been announced for a modern shopping arcade linking St Andrew's Street and Drummer Street bus station, replacing the Christ's Lane. There would be a two-storey block of shops facing an open court together with a waiting room for bus passengers and basement parking for 21 cars and 100 bicycles. 57 08 23b & c

1959 09 11

Christ's Lane picture, p10

**1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date**

## **1960**

1961 07 01

Bradwell's Court, the new public footway linking St Andrew's Street with Drummer Street, was opened for the first time this week. At the same time Christ's Lane, the old cobbled pathway, was closed. With an arcade at each end and an 'open style' court in the centre, the new thoroughfare is flanked by 13 shops 60 01 23c The Roe family has been well known in Cambridge since Joseph Roe started in the antiques trade in Petty Cury in 1826. Now one more facet of the old times will disappear with the demolition of their shop on the corner of Christ's Lane and St Andrew's Street. It has been in existence since 1882, having been rebuilt in 1897. New buildings will rise on the site in keeping with the contemporary Bradwell's Court. The business has relocated to Downing Street where it will be continued by Owen Roe. 61 07 01a

**1980**

1980 09 03

Visitors to Cambridge will be confused if they use the latest Ordnance Survey map of the city. The Lion Yard shopping centre, completed more than five years ago, is not shown but marked as a collection of tiny streets. Christ's Lane, closed for the past 15 years and not even visible, is still shown as leading from Drummer Street to St Andrew's Street whilst the University Centre is an empty space. Even the Tourist Information Centre is shown as at the front of the Guildhall, rather than the back. The O.S. said it did not seem very satisfactory 80 09 03b

1984 11 02

Owen Roe, the St Andrew's Street antiques dealer, is the latest in a line of specialist private shops owners to be driven out of the centre of Cambridge by massive rent rises. His great-grandfather started in business at the corner of Christ's Lane in 1822 but that shop was pulled down to make way for Bradwell's Court in the 1960s. Recently E.J. Pigott (tools) left Sussex Street after nearly 50 years and now the Granta Wool Shop is concerned about a rent review. Model Mania in King Street has also moved. 84 11 02 p8